

## I want a son 1809 - 1810

- ✦ December 15, 1809: Napoleon divorces Josephine due to her inability to produce a son.
- ✦ April 2, 1810: Napoleon and Marie-Louise get married.
- ✦ son is born, named Napoleon II, the King of Rome



After more assassination plots on Napoleon's life, Napoleon becomes more concerned about having an heir to the throne. Josephine has been unable to have a child with Napoleon in 13 years even though she had children in her previous marriage. Due to Josephine's inability to produce an heir, Napoleon divorces her. It was all done with the understanding that it was to help France. In fact in her divorce statement, she says: "... I must declare that, having no hope of bearing children who would fulfill the needs of his policies and the interests of France" she is willing to give him a divorce.

Napoleon wastes no time in finding and taking a new wife. Just five months later, he chooses to marry into an established royal family. At 41 years old he chooses the 18 year old Archduchess of the Austrian empire, Marie Louise. This marriage was arranged for political reasons to strengthen the relationship with Austria as well as to find a young bride capable of producing a son.

CLICK Less than a year after their marriage, Marie-Louise produced the long-awaited heir for Napoleon. He was named Napoleon the II, King of Rome.

CLICK This is a much romanticized picture of the one year old Napoleon the II. No baby certainly sits that way, lounging on imperial robes, holding the imperial necklace and gazing off into the distance at Rome.

# Height of Napoleonic Empire - 1810-1812



Napoleon's empire reached its peak in 1810 to 1812. He ruled over 44 million people and it was the largest European empire since the Romans.

## the continental system 1806

- ✦ economic warfare not military
- ✦ Milan and Berlin Decrees - Napoleon ordered blockade on British goods
- ✦ very ineffective
- ✦ encouraged smuggling
- ✦ many goods available only through Britain
- ✦ Portugal and Russia start trading with the British



Napoleon is determined to still defeat the British. However the decisive defeat at the Battle of Trafalgar convinces him that a head-on military strategy will not work. He resorts to economic warfare instead. Napoleon ordered a blockade on all British goods in the Milan and Berlin Decrees.

England had a large economy with a massive trade network. There were many goods desired by the Europeans that were only available through Britain. So the Blockade ends up being ineffective. It actually hurt France more than it hurt Britain. And it actually encourage smuggling. Portugal refused to comply with the decrees and the blockade. By 1812 Russia ignored the Continental System completely and started trading again with Britain for many goods their is no way to get them but though the british, very ineffective

Portugal and russia eventually start trading with the british angers Napoleon

# War on Russia - 1812

- ✦ 1812 declares war on Russia
- ✦ leads 650,000 men
- ✦ Russians keep retreating
- ✦ no decisive French victories
- ✦ Russians burn Moscow
- ✦ French Grand Armee retreats
- ✦ 500,000 dead from cold, starvation, and disease



due to the continental system that Napoleon decreed, Russia was lacking in many resources that they would normally get by trading with Britain. Russia broke away from the system and that angered Napoleon and he declared war on Russia.

Napoleon crossed into Russia with the largest army in world history up to that time. There were 650,000 men who were ready to follow Napoleon's command and conquer Russia. But Russia would give no satisfaction or grand victories. The Russian army just kept retreating across the vast space of their country. As they retreated the Russians goods and foods using scorched earth policy. Finally the Russian army reached Moscow and Napoleon was sure he could crush them to secure victory.

CLICK However, when Napoleon reached Moscow, it was in flames. The Russians had been willing to burn their great city instead of having it fall under Napoleon. Napoleon had planned on conquering the city and then spending the winter there.

Click Instead Napoleon had to march back across the wide continent in the harsh winter. Without any significant battles, Napoleon's grand army was reduced from 650,000 men to just 150,000. a half a million soldiers died mostly from starvation, disease, and cold. To put this in perspective this is similar in number to our entire civil war which lasted 4 years and had multiple battles.

For Napoleon this was a horrible defeat and it became the beginning of the end for his reign.



## And things get worse - 1813-1814

- ✦ March 1813 - coalition of European countries declares war on France
- ✦ Allies advance on Paris
- ✦ Napoleon abdicates in April 1814
- ✦ two days later Napoleon unconditionally abdicates
- ✦ Napoleon exiled to island of Elba
  - ✦ allowed to rule in Elba
  - ✦ allowed to keep his imperial title
  - ✦ yearly income of 2 million francs.
  - ✦ never sees son or wife again



Encouraged by Napoleon's disaster in Russia and his loss in Spain's Peninsular campaign, a coalition of European countries declares war on France. Their desire is to break Napoleon once and for all. Napoleon has some victories but too many losses and the European coalition presses forward into France.

Within a year the Allies have reached Paris and Napoleon is forced to abdicate. In this picture, Napoleon is saying goodbye to his troops.

At first Napoleon makes a conditional abdication; he is willing to abdicate only if his son is allowed to take his place and is put on the throne. Of course this is unacceptable to the Allies and they demand unconditional abdication. Two days later Napoleon is forced to agree to an unconditional abdication.

He is exiled to the island of Elba off the coast of Italy. Surprisingly for how much the Allies wanted to see him gone, he is given quite a lenient and fair exile. He is allowed to rule the island of Elba. He is allowed to keep his imperial title of Emperor. He is given a yearly income of 2 million francs. However, his wife and son do not go with him to Elba as they go to Austria back with Marie-Louise's family. Napoleon never sees his son or wife again

# Escape and back to France

- ✦ February 1815 Napoleon makes daring escape from Elba
- ✦ Arrives in France and confronts troops in Grenoble
- ✦ troops choose to support him
- ✦ March 1815: Napoleon arrives in Paris



*"Here I am. Kill your Emperor, if you wish."  
- Napoleon*

But Napoleon's story isn't over. He is not a man to give up and sit waiting for the end. He is a man to make his own destiny.

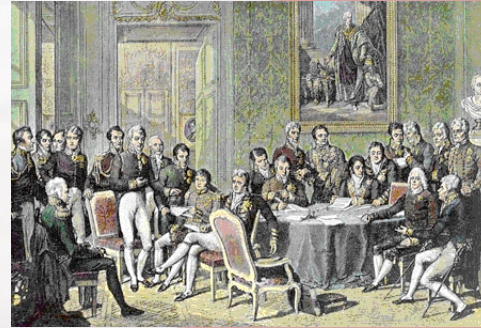
9 months after arriving on Elba, Napoleon makes a daring escape from the island on a ship headed to France

After arriving in France, troops sent by King Louis XVIII intercept him in Grenoble. Napoleon famously approaches them and says "Here I am. Kill your emperor, if you wish." The troops choose to support him instead of the Bourbon king who is back on the throne.

Napoleon marches towards Paris arriving there in March of 1815 and ready to start a second empire.

# What the heck is going on in France? ... Europe Unites again

- ✦ as Europe feuds on how to split up Napoleon's France
- ✦ Napoleon comebacks to France
- ✦ Britain, Netherlands, Russia, Prussia, and Austria unite



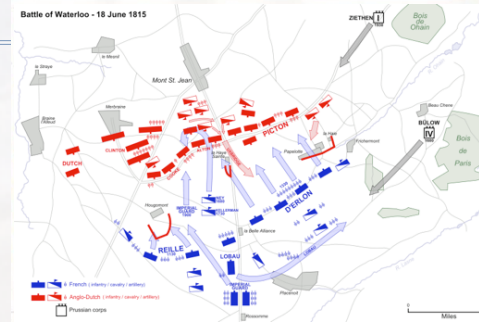
Congress of Vienna

Europe was feuding over how to split up Napoleon's empire and almost went back to war over it when the countries find out that Napoleon is baaaaaack!! A seventh coalition of European nations is formed with Britain, Netherlands, Russia, Prussia, and Austria. Their one intent to find Napoleon and remove him from power. Napoleon is declared an outlaw.

Napoleon tries to appease the coalition by saying he would not go back to war, he would limit his powers, and he would give more rights to the French people. However, the coalition isn't buying it. They have known Napoleon for too long.

# Battle of Waterloo

- ✦ Napoleon gathers an army of 200,000
- ✦ goes on the offensive against British and Prussian armies
- ✦ June 18, 1815 Battle of Waterloo
- ✦ Napoleon's army is crushed
- ✦ Napoleon retreats



British Duke Wellington

Napoleon arrived in Paris on 20 March and governed for a period that is known as the Hundred Days. By June he had been able to gather 200,000 men in the armed forces. SO he decides to go on the offensive against the British and Prussian troops that are coming towards France. Napoleon goes into battle at Waterloo in the Kingdom of the Netherlands (what is now Belgium).

CLICK The Battle of Waterloo is primarily fought against British troops under the command of Duke Wellington. The Prussian forces under the command of Blucher show up near the end of the battle and provide reinforcements to Wellington. Without Blucher, there is a chance that Napoleon could have beaten Wellington and won the Battle of Waterloo. Instead his army is crushed and he is forced to retreat.



## A Second Exile - 1815

- ✦ June 1815: Napoleon is forced to abdicate again
- ✦ exiled much farther away
- ✦ island of Saint Helena
- ✦ Napoleon dies on St Helena on May 5, 1821:
- ✦ in 1840 his remains were moved back to France



in the face of defeat, Napoleon is forced to abdicate again. This time he is exiled to an island much farther away

CLICK The island is Saint Helena and it is located in the south Atlantic ocean. The closest land mass is 700 miles away and that land is Africa. Napoleon dies on St Helena six years later on May 5, 1821:

CLICK in 1840 Napoleon's remains were moved back to France

# Hero, emperor, tyrant, yes .... but a romantic?

*"What a romance my life has been."*  
- Napoleon

- ✦ common man who made good
- ✦ passionate
- ✦ skill based promotions
- ✦ believed in destiny and guiding star
- ✦ used painting to romanticize himself



It is very clear that under any review Napoleon was an exemplary military leader and strategist. He was also a hero and a self-proclaimed emperor. He often said that everything he did, he did for the love of France. The story and reign of Napoleon has become the stuff of legends. His reputation has been viewed as both good and bad through the years - sometimes as a man of war and sometimes as a man of peace. He has been viewed as a tyrant and a benevolent despot. He was certainly an extraordinary man and even Napoleon boasted "What a romance my life has been."

Even though his life is sometimes viewed with more passion than reason, there are many reasons that he fits with the romantic period beyond that of just living in the time.

CLICK Napoleon was just a common man at birth but through work and hardship, he succeeded.

He was passionate especially about his country, his soldiers, and his wife and son

His early promotions in the military were based on skill and ability.

He believed in the concept of destiny and he believed he had a guiding star.

And, He used paintings to romanticize himself. The works showed strong emotion and passion that showed him in a better state than what he was.

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